

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested. Claims 1-15 are pending, Claims 1-5, 9, 10, 12 and 15 having been withdrawn from consideration.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claim 6 was rejected as being anticipated by Hamaguchi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,014,374, hereinafter Hamaguchi); and Claims 7, 8, 11, 13 and 14 were rejected as being unpatentable over Hamaguchi in view of Stern et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0165801, hereinafter Stern).

Each of Claims 6-8, 11, 13 and 14 were rejected on prior art grounds, based on Hamaguchi. However, Applicants hereby perfect priority to JP priority document, JP 2003-051865, filed in the JPO on February 27, 2003. Filed herewith is an English language translation of this Japanese priority document, and a certification that the translation is accurate. Moreover, M.P.E.P. § 201.15 requires a translation of the foreign priority document, along with a statement that the translation of the certified copy of the priority document is accurate. Because the Japanese priority document provides adequate support for the presently pending claims, and the priority document has an earlier effective date than Hamaguchi, it is respectfully submitted that Hamaguchi is not prior art with regard to the presently pending claims.

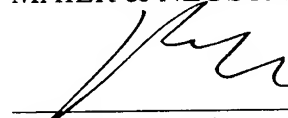
Consequently, in view of the filing of the translation of the Japanese priority document and statement of accuracy regarding the translation, it is respectfully submitted that the invention defined by Claims 6-8, 11, 13 and 14 are patentable over the asserted prior art. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

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